DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

"Caring for ALL Animak"

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First Annual "The Homeward Bound-Mega Pet Adoption Event" A Resounding Success

San Bernardino. The First Annual Homeward Bound Mega Pet Adoption Event held at Yucaipa Regional Park on June 16th and 17th was a resounding success, one hundred and sixty three homeless pets found new loving homes. This event was a collaboration between the County of San Bernardino, Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, Yucaipa Animal Placement Society, Animals aRe First Fund, and County Regional Parks.

"This event facilitated in meeting the health and social services needs of the County's residents and supported the Countywide Vision Statement where all sectors work collaboratively to reach shared goals," said Brian Cronin, Division Chief Animal Care and Control. "The event helped build new and expanded existing partnerships among public agencies, businesses, non-profits and faith based organizations."

Fifteen animal organizations, including rescue groups and municipal shelters had more than two hundred dogs and cats available for adoption. Low cost vaccinations and micro-chipping was offered, as well as on-site licensing.

Twenty two vendors throughout Southern California offered their animal related attires, and three dog training organizations conducted on-site demonstrations. Families were also able to participate in fun activities such as face painting, blow-up rock walls and bounce houses, and enjoy freshly prepared foods at a nominal cost.

By the end of the event, four hundred and eighty-nine vaccinations were given, including one hundred and seventy-one rabies vaccinations; eighty-two micro-chips were implanted, and one hundred and one dog licenses were sold.

This event was a lead-in to the Department of Public Health, Animal Care and Control (ACC) Division's participation in the upcoming American Society for the Prevention and Cruelty of Animals (ASPCA) Rachel Ray \$100K Challenge.

This Challenge is an annual contest that inspires animal shelters to innovate and stretch to save more lives. Fifty competing shelters from across the country will work to save at least 300 more animals—during the months of August, September, and October 2012—than they did over the same three-month period in 2011. As a result of previous Challenges, participating agencies increased the number of lives saved by 7,362 in 2010, and 8,977 in 2011.

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By competing in this event, ACC will raise the level of awareness in the community of the many available and adoptable animals locally, and has the potential to be granted up to one hundred-thousand dollars. If awarded, the monies granted will be used to assist the nonprofit rescues who are partnered with ACC in their efforts to place more animals in forever homes.

For more information about the ASPCA Rachel Ray \$100K Challenge, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609 or visit www.sbcounty.gov/acc.

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